

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-13, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 33 are pending in this application. Claims 26-32 are cancelled by the present response without introducing new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9-13, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 33 were allowed; and Claims 26-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Foley (U.S. Pat. No. 5,249,120) in view of Hirai et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,814,400, herein Hirai).

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter in Claims 1-6, 9-13, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 33. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled Claims 26-32 in order to enable the allowable claims to pass to issue.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-6, 9-13, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 33 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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